

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY 2007–2008 ANNUAL REPORT



*"(About the Conservancy)...
people are starting to say this is
really a fantastic thing."*

**Cheryl Belcher, Executive Director
Sierra-Cascade Land Trust Council**

Autumn Sunrise, Rock Creek
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This first annual report of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) briefly captures the initial years of the SNC's existence, as well as more detailed information for fiscal year 2007–08. During the early years a number of organizational activities were undertaken by the SNC, including a substantial amount of public outreach. Input received from these outreach efforts, was used by the SNC as it developed its organizational structure, [Strategic Plan](#), [Program Guidelines](#) and [Grant Guidelines](#).

During those early years, the SNC also searched for suitable office locations and established a headquarters office in Auburn and an office in Mariposa, as well as procuring space for staff in federal office buildings in Susanville and Bishop ([view map](#)). Hiring of staff occurred throughout fiscal years 2006–07 and 2007–08 with 22 permanent staff now employed by the SNC.

Recognizing the importance of education and outreach, the SNC developed the [Education and Communications Plan](#), participated in the Governor's "Green Dream" event and attended many other meetings and events throughout the Sierra Nevada Region¹ (Region) as it worked to build partnerships. These efforts included outreach to decision-makers and residents in the Region and throughout the state to communicate the importance of the Region and the actions necessary to protect it.

In November 2006 voters approved [Proposition 84](#), the *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006*. Included in the bond measure was a \$54 million allocation to the SNC to support projects to improve watershed health throughout the Region. In 2007–08 the SNC carried out the first year of its Proposition 84 grants program, awarding nearly \$17 million for 146 projects with a wide array of benefits throughout the Region.

Also during 2007–08 the SNC began an effort to address the critical issue of climate change in the Sierra Nevada, hosting a symposium and beginning development of a Climate Change Initiative for the Region.

The SNC receives funding for all of these activities through the State's Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) and Proposition 84 funds. The 2007–08 Budget Act appropriated \$3.9 million to the SNC from the ELPF for its base operations and \$506,000 in Proposition 84 funds for administration of its grant program.

In the more than three years since the SNC was created, the Governing Board and staff have worked hard to identify ways in which the organization can make a positive difference in the Region. Programs have been developed to support existing efforts, raise awareness of issues, encourage new activities and increase the overall capacity to deal with complex issues across the Region. We are proud of the difference we have already made in a part of the State that is so critically important to all Californians and we look forward to making an even greater difference in the future.

What Others Are Saying About the SNC

Videos: ▶ [Joan Clayburgh, Director, Sierra Nevada Alliance](#)
▶ [Steve Schackelton, National Park Service](#)
▶ [Robyn Smith, Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation District](#)

¹ The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is comprised of 25 million acres, all or part of 22 counties, 20 incorporated cities, 40 special districts and 212 communities. ([Statutory description of region](#))